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NEWS RELEASE

## **Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award honours activism**

AIDS Calgary awards Doug Langille the 2006 award recipient

**Calgary, Alberta** – AIDS Calgary Awareness Association announced today they presented the 2006 Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award to an HIV/AIDS advocate and leader from the Calgary community. Doug Langille received the Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award for his outstanding contribution to the HIV/AIDS movement and his direct impact on the lives of people in our community.

“Doug has been a long standing volunteer in our agency, as well as a strong voice for people living with HIV, “ said Susan Cress, Executive Director of AIDS Calgary. “He has offered the community his support by volunteering, sitting on Boards locally and on a provincial level, holding fundraisers, cooking meals for our nutritional programs and baking for Christmas tins to brighten the holidays for people living with HIV.”

When asked how his efforts impacted the lives of people in our community, Doug said “I don’t want anyone to have to be told they are living with HIV. It messed up my life. I lost friends and was treated like a leper, so helping people understand HIV and its impact is very important to me.” Doug continued by saying, “helping others living with HIV and hearing them say thank you for serving them a hot meal is enough for me, because I know they mean it.”

Each year, the Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award distinguishes a member of the Calgary community for their dedication and outstanding contribution to HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. Named in honour of Roger LeBlanc, a long-term employee of SMED International (now Haworth), who was diagnosed with HIV in the early 1990s, this award emphasizes the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness, while keeping Roger’s memory alive. Roger truly was a leader of HIV/AIDS education and prevention in the Calgary community.

The recipient of the 2006 Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award – Doug Langille - was recognized at the Walk for Life Calgary 2006.

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AIDS Calgary is a local not-for-profit AIDS service organization that offers support services to individuals who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and provides prevention and education throughout the Calgary region. For more information, please contact AIDS Calgary at (403) 508-2500 or online at [www.aidscalgary.org](http://www.aidscalgary.org).

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